

# Record

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## Missionary brings light into blind world

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Her white cane rattles as she swishes it side-to-side in front of her, searching for dips and rocks in the dirt road.

Children run from her, frightened, while adults turn to stare.

Peninah Wandia doesn't notice their reactions, though. She's just happy to be out in the sunshine. In fact, Wandia, 60, knows she's lucky to be alive.

She lost her sight last August in a terrorist bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. The blast killed more than 200 people and injured another 5,000.

Wandia's decision to switch buses that day put her in the wrong place at the wrong time. That choice changed her life forever, but not her optimism.

Her upbeat attitude shows as she walks through her neighborhood with Rhonda Adams, a mobility and orientation specialist for the visually handicapped.

Adams, an International Service Corps worker with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, taught her how to get around with a cane.

Adams works with the 10 people blinded and 160 others who sustained eye injuries in the explosion.

Her first job is showing them that being visually impaired doesn't mean they can't function. Her goal is to let God's love touch the lives of people suffering because of the bomb blast.

In Kenya, "Blind people aren't expected to do anything. They sit in their houses and are waited on by family," explained Adams, from Dallas.

Because of that, Adams often draws a crowd when she's teaching her clients in public.

When she began working with Wandia, "At first I was the attraction, being the only white woman in the area. Then people would notice a blind person doing something, and they'd stare at her instead," Adams said.

Not all of Adams' clients have been as easy to help as Wandia.

"She's lucky. She grew up here, knows the roads like the back of her hand. Most of the other people blinded in the bombing lost their jobs and had to change neighborhoods," Adams said. "Not only am I having to teach them how to get around, but also where they are. I'm creating a new map in their minds."

Adams also helps them relearn how to do household chores. "It's giving them back a measure of the independence they once knew," she said.

As the work of rebuilding lives trudges on slowly, some Kenyans are walking a little faster now.

Some like Wandia, strolling through her neighborhood like she used to, greeting friends and enjoying life.

As she nears her gate, neighbors come out to tease her

good-naturedly, telling her she's going into the wrong courtyard. Wandia laughs.

"You're doing a good job with 'Mama' Peninah," one

woman tells Adams. "She looks better every day."

Adams thanks her. She knows it's God's work, not her own.



**FINDING FREEDOM** — Douglas Sindialo (front) was blinded by the terrorist bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 1998. Now, thanks to Southern Baptist missionary Rhonda Adams (following, at right), he is learning how to live independently in a country where the blind usually sit at home and are waited on by family members. (BP photo by Matt Jones)

## Canadians set 1,000-church goal

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Canada (BP) — Canadian Southern Baptists embraced a goal to plant 1,000 new churches across Canada by the year 2020 during their annual meeting May 25-27 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The goal, said Gerry Taillon, the convention's new national ministry leader, is based on the conviction that "the church is God's way to impact Canada and the world."

To have such a large goal when the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists (CCSB) now has only 146 churches requires more than "dreaming," Taillon acknowledged. "If God gives us a dream, he will help us see that day when it is accomplished."

Other goals presented by Taillon were to multiply the convention's international missionary force tenfold, from three to 30 couples, and to increasingly promote partnerships with U.S. states and other countries. Messengers voted to establish a new position in partnership missions, which will be half-time in the year 2000 and full time in 2001. During a convention-wide forum concerning the proposed goals, messengers expressed concern for existing churches, some of which are plateaued or declining.

"We will not forget these churches," Taillon said. "We are committed to helping all our churches become all that God wants them to be."

Taillon pointed to record baptisms in the past year — 648 — and a record percentage increase in Cooperative Program gifts.

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## Looking back

### 10 years ago

With temperatures hovering in the mid-90s, about 1,800 Southern Baptists knock on doors throughout Las Vegas prior to the Southern Baptist Convention and record 350 professions of faith, according to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

### 20 years ago

The Soviet Union has imprisoned as many as 1,000 Ukrainian Baptists in the past 20 years, according to Ukrainian Baptist pastor Georgi Vins, who says he knew of 10 who were tortured to death. Vins served three prison terms and came to the U.S. in April as part of a prisoner exchange.

### 50 years ago

N. W. Cox, pastor of First Church, Meridian and past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is presented a special gift: two months' vacation with pay, plus \$2,500 cash. The proposal is submitted to the church by A. S. Bozeman, Sr. and unanimously adopted.



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Perkins Jr.**  
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# Gambling, politics, and your right to know

The federal commission studying the state of legalized gambling in the U.S. is concluding its work after an exhaustive tour that included stops in Mississippi and several other venues heavily invested in gambling.

The National Gambling Impact Study Commission, which counted Pascagoula radiologist Paul Moore among its members, represents a carefully-crafted political balance between pro-gambling and anti-gambling forces. The group will release its final report on June 18.

While neither side in the gambling debate got everything they wanted from the commission — which has no legislative or regulatory authority — the conclusions and recommendations of the commission bear serious study by anyone concerned about the virtually-unlimited spread of gambling across America in the past decade.

In Mississippi, the genie is unfortunately already out of the bottle. It is obvious that the gamblers have worked their way into the body and soul of Mississippi to the point that the state is ruled by a virtual gambling-political complex.

The state's gambling regulatory system is based almost word-for-word on the Nevada model. Just about every state activity from highway construction to natural disaster preparedness to the court system has been subjugated to the welfare of the gambling industry.

Seeing as how gambling has spread and continues to spread faster in Mississippi than any other area of the country, concerned Mississippians should take a serious look at the report and how its recommendations can be implemented.

Among the most important recommendations to come from the commission's final report will be:

♦ The issuance of "gambling impact statements" by independent organizations to assess the economic and social effects in areas considering the legalization of gambling.

"I think a lot of uninformed decisions are being made, and they're being made in circumstances where the big picture is not

being considered," said commissioner Richard Leone, a former New Jersey treasurer.

♦ Betting on college and other amateur athletic contests should be banned even in states where such gambling is currently legal.

♦ Anyone under the age of 21 should not be allowed in gambling facilities.

♦ Internet gambling should be outlawed, and foreign governments should be encouraged not to allow companies to use their country as a base for international Internet gambling.

♦ State lotteries should be prohibited from adding casino-style instant games, and racetracks and other parimutuel operations should not be allowed to boost their sagging revenues with casino-style games.

♦ "Convenience" gambling, such as video poker in neighborhood stores, bars, and truck stops, should be outlawed, and automated teller machines (ATMs) should be banned from casino floors and other gambling areas.

♦ Odds of winning should be prominently posted, along with cigarette package-style warnings of the dangers of gambling.

The commission was especially critical of Indian gambling, the owners of which apparently decided not to provide relevant information despite repeated requests from the commission.

The many cautious recommendations made by the commission may seem to be simple common sense to most people — the same common sense steps that would be taken against any activity as dangerous as gambling to the social fabric of America.

You can be sure, however, the gambling/political complex doesn't see it that way. Gamblers and their political toadies in Mississippi and across the country can be counted on to fight most, if not all, these recommendations. When gambling money

and politicians get together, the outcome is not in doubt.

In this election year, when everyone from county sheriff to legislator to governor is up for election, it behooves us to ask a few simple questions of these people to want to represent us in public office.

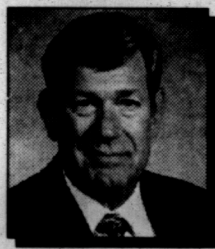
To wit: What is your position on gambling? What is your voting record on gambling issues? Are you taking campaign contributions from gambling interests? How much access will gamblers have to your office, if elected?

Those are legitimate questions, and we should demand legitimate answers. Don't allow candidates to get away with duplicitous and evasive responses. Don't be intimidated if they get angry with your insistence. Remember that they are asking for your vote.

You have a right to know, don't you?



## GUEST OPINION:



### When the hedge has been removed

By Elton P. Raby Jr., member  
Thirty-eighth Avenue Church, Hattiesburg

Many will argue that the parable is about Israel, and it is. But is it not possible that when this nation of ours was founded that God put a hedge around her? Personally, I believe that he did, because she was founded on Christian values and principles. For years, her people were God-fearing, church-going, family-oriented people who obeyed both the laws of God and the land. Now our money seems to be the only testimony to its motto, "In God we trust."

In recent years, a liberal administration, Congress, Court system and the Supreme Court itself have all set the stage to cause the hedge to be

removed by our Lord. A handful of atheists and agnostics, along with the ACLU and other powerful attorneys, aided by a liberal press, have succeeded in removing prayer from our schools and religious activities from school properties.

All we need to do is to look around us to see the fruit of the wild grapes we have sown. Recent school shooting sprees, the bombing of public buildings, murder, rape, gang warfare, political scandal, drugs, alcohol, violence in movies, on the internet, and television are all the wild grapes.

In the last few days, terror has struck at the hearts of peo-

ple everywhere. Law enforcement, politicians, preachers, and the citizenry are all asking why. What can be done to stop the killings and other violence? The answer to the first question is that we, as Christians, have allowed this minority of atheists and liberal courts to take away from the schools and many other public functions our basic right to freedom of religion — namely public prayer. Now the majority has a wake-up call, and we should demand that this right be restored. It won't be easy. It may cause pain and suffering — perhaps prison or even worse.

The answer to the second question, "What can we do?" is found in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If My people, who are called by My Name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My Face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Raby is a retired county agent for the cooperative extension service.



# New lesson writers named for summer quarter

The Baptist Record has named new Sunday School writers for the three LifeWay Christian Resources curriculum lines for the June, July, and August quarter.

Writing for the Family Bible series is Grant Arinder, pastor of First Church, Belzoni. Arinder recently completed the doctor of ministry degree at Beeson Divinity School of Samford University. He is married to the former Lori LaCoss of Ft. Worth, Texas. They have two children.

Arinder is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary. He is a native of Columbus.



Arinder

Ted Dukes, pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs, is writing for the Explore the Bible series. Dukes is a Jackson native, raised in Rankin County. He is a graduate of Mississippi College with both bachelor and masters degrees. He holds the Doctor of Ministry degree from Reformed Seminary in Jackson.

Dukes previously served as a Chaplain in the Mississippi Army National Guard, and currently serves as chaplain for the Rankin County Sheriff's Department. He is married to the former Andrea Goodwin of Memphis, Tenn.

Writing for the Life and

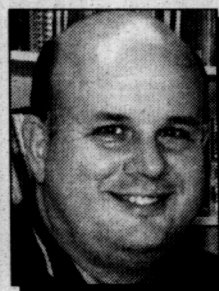


Dukes

Work curriculum is Tony Martin, minister of education at First Church, McComb. Martin, an Alabama native, is an experienced curriculum writer, having written previously for LifeWay and for ReachOut Ministries of Atlanta, where he served as a resource specialist and editor before coming to McComb. He is a graduate of Troy State University and of Southwestern Seminary with a masters in religious education.

Martin is married to the former Teresa Chancellor of Montgomery, Ala. They have two children.

The Baptist Record provides



Martin

Sunday School lessons as a supplement to the curriculum material available from LifeWay and as a service to our readers. The views expressed by the lesson writers are their own, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board or LifeWay Christian Resources.

Anyone interested in writing Sunday School lessons for The Baptist Record should contact associate editor Carl White at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3217, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 217.

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
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## All-State Youth Choir featured at SBCMC

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

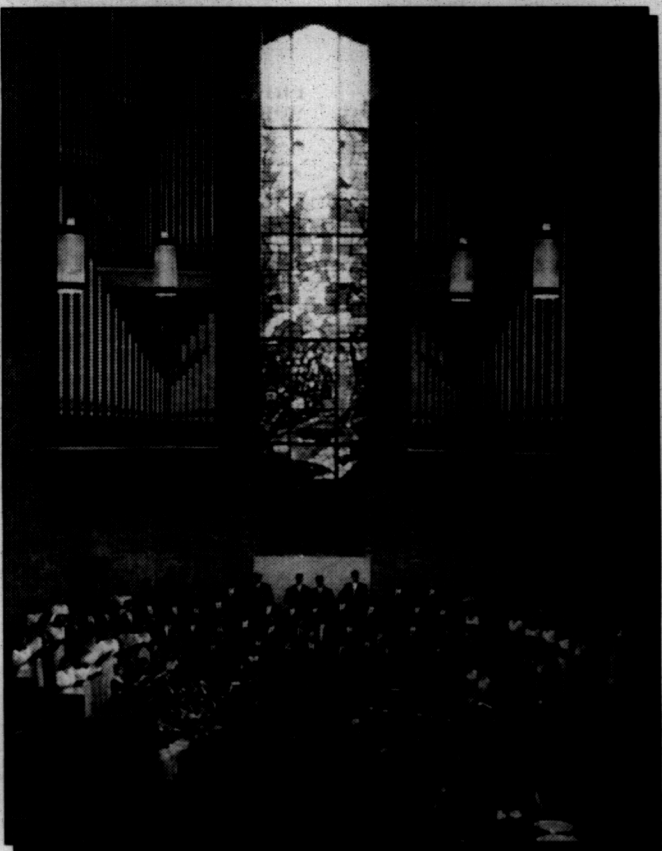
The 1999 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra was featured June 8 during the 1999 Southern Baptist Church Music Conference (SBCMC) held at First Church, Nashville, June 6-8.

The All-State Choir was first organized in 1993 by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board under the leadership of L. Graham Smith, department director, and Susan Clark, youth music and drama consultant.

The 1999 choir consisted of 112 singers selected from over 200 who auditioned.

Richard Joiner, head of the music department at Mississippi College, has been the All-State choral director since the choir's inception.

David Young, instrumental director at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, has served as the All-



State orchestra director since the instrumental program was added in 1995.

The invitation to sing at the SBCMC marks a high point in the pilgrimage of the choir, Joiner told a capacity crowd at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, the choir's final concert on this year's tour.

"These are church musicians, my peers, people who know the difference," Joiner told the congregation.

Joiner told of one of his peers from another Baptist college who asked how he organized rehearsals during the six days of

camp. "Make that two and a half days," Joiner replied.

The choir and orchestra is made up of 9th through 12th graders who are chosen through a personal audition and interview process. Each member must be an active participant in the music ministry of their local church and have the recommendation of their pastor or minister of music.

The 1999 tour also included stops at Petal-Harvey Church, Petal; Hillcrest Church, Jackson; Carriage Hills Church, Southaven; First Church, Hopkinsville, Ky.; Concord Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.; First Church, Tupelo; and Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

Clark, who coordinates the annual program, was unable to make the tour because of an illness which threatened her life during the spring. Allen Harris, minister of music at North Carey Church, Oxford, was asked to step in as coordinator in Clark's place.

Clark is recovering and was able to attend several of the concerts, including the performance in Nashville. At the homecoming concert in Jackson the choir presented Clark with a bouquet of roses and a standing ovation.

For the students, it is a once-in-a-lifetime type of experience, Joiner said.

"It was awesome," said Josh Barber, an 11th grader from First Church, Mize.

"It has to be one of the best experiences I have ever had. There were 112 people, and they were like 112 best friends," Barber said.

Choir and orchestra accompanists were Darwin Brooks of Tupelo, and Judy Walker of Utica. James Lewis, pastor of Carriage Hills Church, Southaven, served as choir pastor.

Counselors were: Kenny Adams, Tylertown; Michael Allen, Ridgeland; LuAnne Ford, Booneville; Judy Ann Fortenberry, Madison; Kinsey Goldman, Carthage; Kathy Lewis, Southaven; Gil Powell, Jackson; Bob Robinson, Tupelo; David and Janice Tinsley, Clarksdale; and Bradley White, Foxworth.

Other personnel included; Charlotte McHenry of Jackson, and Patty Baker of Raymond, medical; John Paul Dove of Florence, Angie Hale of Sledge, and Keith Morgan of Booneville, alumni counselors; Anne Cosier of Jackson, drama consultant; and Peggy Sneed of Oxford, administrative assistant.

The 2000 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra rehearsal camp and tour are planned for June 12-20, 2000. Auditions will be held in November of this year. Locations, dates, and times are to be announced.

For more information about the All-State Choir and Orchestra, contact the Church Music Department of the MBCB at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3267, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 267.



COMPOSER MEETS PERFORMERS — Cindy Berry, composer of the anthem "Joy Overflowing," published by Shawnee Press, was in the audience at the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference when the All-State Youth Choir performed her composition. Pictured (from left) are: Katie White, Clinton, All-State Choir member; Berry; Richard Joiner, All-State Choir director; and Lindsey Oswalt, Clinton, All-State choir member. (Photo by Carl M. White)





# 'Plan B' a hole-in-one for LPGA workers

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Final in a two-part series

When the famed U.S. Open of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) came to Old Waverly Golf Club in West Point last week, Mississippi Baptists were there to greet them in the name of Christ.

Bill Duncan, director of missions for Golden Triangle Association in Columbus, said

that early in the planning process for the prestigious tourney, he along with Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive director Kay Cassibry; First Church, West Point, pastor Gary Richardson; and others met with LPGA officials to determine ways to help with the mammoth event.

One project they proposed and the LPGA accepted was preparing hospitality bags for the visitors to Mississippi.

"At first we were going to

give out the hospitality bags at Old Waverly. Then the LPGA officials said 'no,'" Cassibry said. "I understand why. They said if they allowed us, they would have to allow everyone else. So we had to look to 'Plan B,' which was really a blessing in disguise.

"Had we been allowed to hand out the bags on the golf course, there would have only been a few of us doing the work.

"Plan B was to go to visitor centers and area hotels. We had to rely on lots of help to get it done. We had Acteens, Women on Mission groups, and others from all over," she said.

Mary Ingram of First Church, West Point, coordinated the local volunteers.

In addition to the bags, WMU was allowed to set up a water oasis alongside two of the course's greens, to give away free water. Because of the intense heat, the project was eventually expanded to four greens.

"At one of the greens, I gave a man some water and he was amazed it was free. He said he had been to professional golf tournaments all over and had never been given free water.

"I told him it was a gift from Mississippi Baptists and that God loved him. He said we could charge at least 25¢," Cassibry said.

Cassibry told of Acteen Lindsey Vaughn, stationed at another water oasis, who had a man come up to her and read her Mississippi Baptist tag.

The man asked Vaughn, "Would you shake hands with a Jewish person?" She said, "Of course."

"Each contact like this is a witness," Cassibry said.

The hospitality bags were

prepared by Acteens, Girls in Action (GAs), and Women on Mission groups in Mississippi Baptist churches.

The state WMU office suggested the groups place in the bags a supply of gum, mints, suntan lotion, pocket-size wipes, a pencil, sewing kit, tissue, and band-aid strips, along with a Celebrate Jesus 2000 New Testament provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Evangelism Department.

Cassibry said each group added other items, from peanut butter crackers to hand cream.

WMU volunteers gave away the bags out at the welcome center in Columbus; at all the hotels in Columbus, West Point, and Starkville; and at dorm rooms in use for the tourney at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus and Mississippi State University in Starkville.

Cassibry said 3,000 bags were prepared. By Saturday evening, at least 2,500 had been distributed. Cassibry and Burns set up a table at a block party in downtown West Point to distribute the remaining bags.

"I want to sing the praises of Mississippi Baptist women," said WMU consultant Kathy Burns. "They always come through when we call upon them."

Burns noted that since January she and Cassibry had been from the extreme poverty of Honduras, where Mississippi Baptists have forged a partnership with Baptists in that hurricane-ravaged country, to the plush surroundings of Old Waverly Golf Club.

"In my ministry, it has always been easier to work with those who have less—but even those who have everything need Jesus," she said.

## Mississippians find ministry in Africa

By Tim Palmer  
Missouri Word & Way

Southern Baptist missionaries Robert and Margaret Fortenberry went through language school in Lobatsé, Botswana, after arriving five years ago. They're still in Lobatsé. "In a sense of being assured of God's leading, we're very comfortable here," Robert said.

Robert was born in Moss Point and considers Jackson his hometown. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College in Clinton and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

He previously served as youth director at Cleary Church, Florence, and as pastor of Ora Church, Collins, and Fairfield Church, Moselle.

Margaret was born in Kentucky to Southern Baptist missionaries and grew up in Gweru, Zimbabwe. She considers Moselle her hometown, and previously taught school in Collins and Jones County.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board's shift in emphasis from nations to people groups turned church developer Robert into a multinational mis-

sionary. Each week, he crosses the nearby border into South Africa and drives to the village of Lehurutse, where he leads a Bible study he has written for the Tswana culture.

Women's work is a new area for missionary work, Margaret said. Several women have made professions of faith and are now meeting every other Sunday and making hospital visits.



THE FORTENBERRY FAMILY — (from left) Charissa, age nine; Bethany, age 13; Robert, and Margaret. (IMB photo by Warren Johnson)

## Mississippi missionaries offer refuge to students

By Tim Palmer  
Missouri Word & Way

Southern Baptist missionaries Mark and Whitney Mathis provide a place of spiritual refuge for Botswanan college students — the Baptist Centre in Gabarone.

Mark, who considers Starkville his hometown, received the bachelor of science

degree from Mississippi State University in Starkville, and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. Whitney is a Tennessee native.

A short walk from the sprawling campus of Botswana University (BU), the Baptist Centre gives some of the nearly 9,000 BU students a place to relax, play basketball, and use computers.

"We can sit down and talk, share the Lord with them," Mark said. Several young people have come to Christ through a Thursday Bible study lunch.

Besides BU, student ministries director Mark is responsible for Baptist work at three other schools: the institute of health sciences, the polytechnical institute and the agricultural college.

"It's just coming quicker right now than I can keep up with it," he said.

Mathis has two Journeymen to help — Janee Angel of Illinois and Matt Fritz of South Carolina. Janee and Whitney

Mathis both have an outreach through sports. The Journeyman teaches an aerobics class; the missionary coaches the BU women's basketball team.

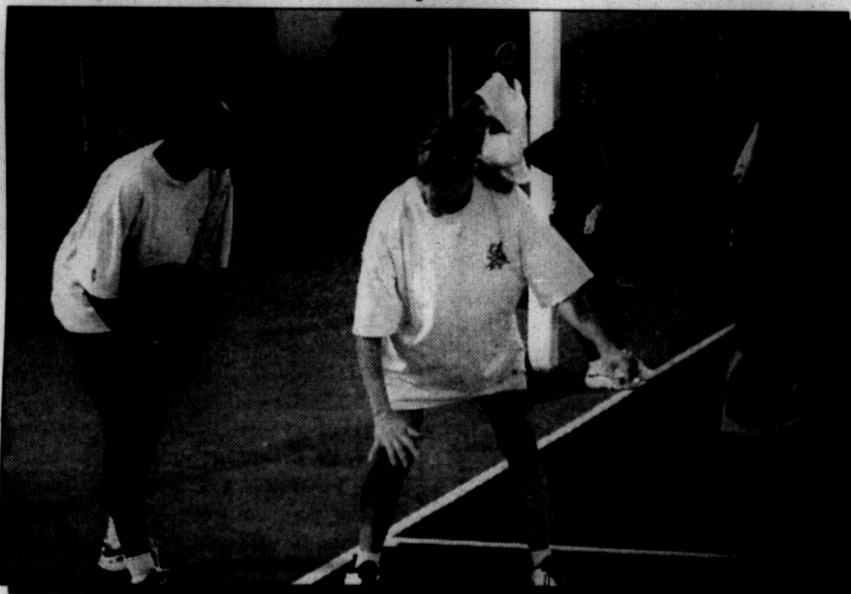
In their ministry, the mis-

sionary couple hold to a vision Mark calls "the 268 declaration," from Isaiah 26:8. "In the path of your judgments, O Lord, we wait for you; your name and your renown are the soul's desire."



CAMPUS CHAT — Missionary Mark Mathis (left) with Journeyman Janee Angel (second from left) talk with University of Botswana students Segametsi Mokobitz and Mbulawa Zwedu. (IMB photo by Warren Johnson)

TEACHING TECHNIQUE — Missionary Stephanie Mathis (center) coaches the girls basketball team on the University of Botswana campus in Gabarone. (IMB photo by Warren Johnson)





# See call from God's view, Blackaby urges

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Approximately 450 pastors and spouses were challenged to reexamine their commitment to Christ-centered ministry and develop character that comes from an intimate relationship with God during a May 17-19 conference, "Revisiting Your Call," at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Featured speakers were Henry T. Blackaby and Henry Brandt, co-authors of "The Power of the Call," a book published by Broadman & Holman Publishers, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Most religious leaders function and preach out of a job description rather than a relationship to God. If we don't have that [relationship with God] on our agenda, we're in trouble," said Blackaby, who leads the prayer and spiritual awakening emphasis for the North American Mission Board and is co-author of the "Experiencing God" discipleship course.

Basing many of his remarks on the life of the biblical character Abraham, Blackaby asked those present to "look at your call from God's perspective." The patriarch's response to a call from God was "immediate and complete." Abraham left on his journey of faith before knowing the precise destination. "God called Abraham, not to an assignment, but to a relationship.... Everything about your call is God-centered, not self-centered."

Therefore, Blackaby observed, a pastor should not "aspire to an assignment God has not called you to."

"God has uniquely shaped your life. There's no one else quite like you. There's no duplicate," Blackaby told those attending the second annual conference. He urged the pastors to "spend your time in obedience to God," which he defined as the true meaning of success.

He warned that sometimes God has to remove an obstacle before the called person can "be set free to answer" God's call. "God wants a solitary commitment, unreserved ... an absolute and unchallenged faith in him."

God also demands "a character that relates to him so thoroughly that he could ask anything of you and you would say, 'Yes.' God cannot develop your character until you're where he wants you to be," Blackaby stated.

Difficult circumstances "don't make character, they reveal what's there," he said. What the pastor does "spontaneously under pressure" demonstrates his closeness and relationship with God, who has a clear "standard for worship."

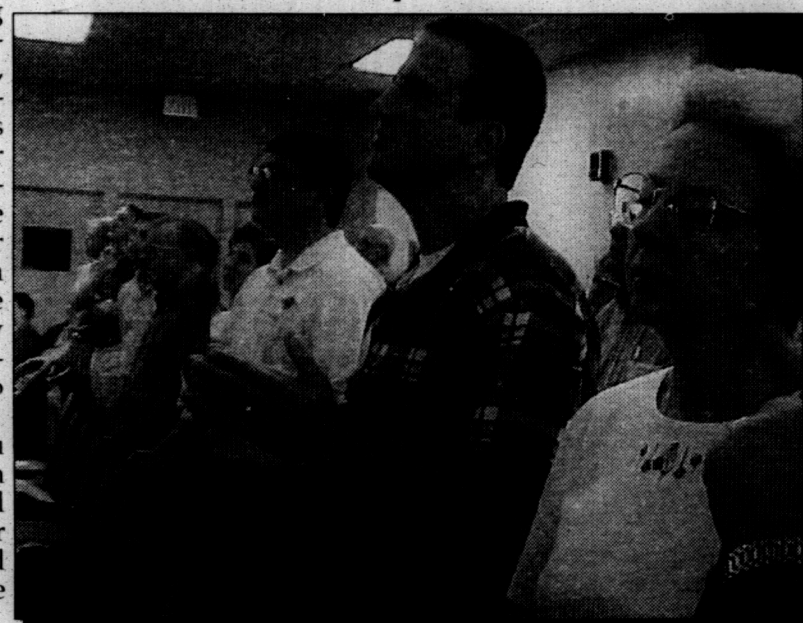
Brandt, a biblical counseling pioneer from Singer Island, Fla., contrasted the temporary relief that comes when a pastor receives counsel from an unbelieving psychologist and the permanent peace that comes from a dynamic relationship with God. Speaking quietly before the hushed Ridgecrest audience, Brandt said a secular counselor helps people "live with and manage their sins, and be reasonably peaceful. Jesus said, 'I want you to turn to me for peace.'"

The 82-year-old speaker related personal experiences about how God provided peace despite the death of two wives, the loss of \$250,000 in a business transaction, his battle with Parkinson's disease, and other family setbacks.

Not wanting those he counsels to dwell on the past as an excuse for their current behavior, Brandt, also co-author of the book, "The Heart of the Problem," urged pastors to turn for help with life's troubles to the Creator, rather than the creation.

Echoing other conference speakers, Brandt criticized pastors who find their sermon outlines on the Internet rather than through intensive Bible study and a dynamic relationship with God.

"Are you depending on inspired material or researched material?" he asked.



## LOCKED DOORS REVEAL BLESSINGS

The frantic call came to my office about 9 a.m., just as I was getting into the flow of the day's work. I have had several of those calls through the years. For instance — after a severe freeze a water line burst in the attic and my wife called to let me know how the folks in Noah's day felt; similar calls as the children had accidents or incidents; and then there was the call the day my dog (my special friend), my best dog "Spunky," was diagnosed with cancer.

On this day the call was made from a neighbor's house to inform me that my wife, who had gone out for her morning



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

walk of several miles, was locked out of the house. The question at hand was, would I have time to come home and unlock the door for her? I thought about it and concluded that it probably would be in her best interest (as well as mine, to say nothing about "national security and maintaining world-wide peace")

if I found the time to go.

It needs to be clearly understood that she did not just lock herself out. Our "at-home-for-the-summer" college-age daughter had left while my wife was out walking. Therefore the burden of blame was leaning towards her. She had locked the door, and not only that, but she had also put the garage door down — neither of which she normally did. How many times had we instructed, encouraged, and demanded of her that she lock the doors and close the garage.

As I made my way home to unlock the door, I thought about two good things that had happened regarding this tragedy:

- My daughter had gotten up, gotten ready, and was heading out to take care of some task that needed attention. That's good; procrastination was going down in defeat.

- The bigger issue: our daughter finally, finally did what we had been telling her to do. How many times had she left the house with doors open, everything

left unsecured, and gone about her merry way? How many lectures had she heard? How many times had her mother, and her father, come home and thought, "She's done it again!"?

But not this day — this day she did it right! She did it like she had been told! She did it and had become a responsible, young adult, but in the process she locked her mother out.

So upon reflection, by the time I got home I was in a positive frame of mind, thinking, "This is a good day. This is a day of rejoicing. This is a day in which the Scripture is being fulfilled: 'Train up a child in the way she should go ...'"

When I arrived home to unlock the door, her mother was waiting out front in the hot sun. She did not share my view of the experience.

On further reflection, I am convinced that many of us have come to the "locked door" experiences of life, never looking around to see that God may be doing a good thing; instead, we stare at what seems to be a tragic thing.

Maybe it would do each of us some good to re-visit some of the "locked door" experiences — to relive, and maybe now in faith, to realize the good thing God was doing.

What locked doors? The award you did not win; the election in which you were defeated; the person you did not marry; the class you failed; the job you lost; the good friend who badly disappointed you; the storm that disrupted everything; the disease that totally changed the direction of your life.

"Locked doors" can reveal blessings!

CALL CONFERENCE — Worship and music were part of the May 17-19 Revisiting Your Call conference at Ridgecrest Conference Center attended by 450 pastors and spouses. (BP photo by Dan Nicholas)

## LMCO hits new high

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists collected their largest-ever offering for missions during the 1998 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions. When the books closed May 31, total receipts for the offering were \$101,713,066.69, a sixth year of record receipts.

Southern Baptists surpassed the \$100 million mark for the first time with the 1997 offering. The 1998 offering is an increase of more than \$1.6 million over 1997.

Every dollar received through the offering goes to support the board's mission work overseas.

The offering, generally collected in churches during December, funds nearly half the IMB's budget. The rest comes from Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, and other income, such as investments and hunger and relief receipts.

## Hannahs heading home



Natalie and Glynn Hannah (left), members of Pinelake Church, Brandon, were recently honored by other Southern Baptist missionaries serving in Kiev, Ukraine, upon completion of their 13-month assignment under the International Mission Board (IMB) International Service Corps program. Keith Byrd (right), who administers Southern Baptist work in Ukraine for IMB, bids them farewell. (IMB photo by Mike Creswell)



# Criminal background checks now available

By Paul G. Jones, II, director  
Christian Action Commission

Regrettably, the church is sometimes a place where sexual predators can find unquestioned acceptance and be given leadership roles without supervision or accountability. While most secular programs for children and youth screen workers for moral and criminal history, the church has been slow to require the same background information on its staff and volunteers.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, Inc. (CAC), the Cooperative Program-funded ethics agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, makes several recommendations regarding the staffing and supervision of preschool, children, and youth programs and activities:

- ◆ Establish a minimum twelve-month rule that prevents a person from having any involvement in programs for children and youth for that period of time after joining the church. A pedophile will not want to wait a year to get his/her hands on the children.

- ◆ Establish a two-person rule that mandates children or youth will not be left with only one person. A second non-related person provides verification and protection for the adult leaders.

- ◆ Establish a rule that only members of Southern Baptist churches be placed in any position, paid or volunteer, that

involves children and youth.

- ◆ Establish a policy that requires all persons involved with children or youth to submit to a sex offense criminal history record information search.

The Office of the Mississippi Attorney General has approved the CAC executive director to serve as the authorized employer representative of the churches, agencies, institutions, and

boards of the Mississippi Baptist Convention with regard to the gathering of sex offense criminal history records.

The information is gathered through the Criminal Information Center of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. The person on whom a criminal history is being undertaken must complete and sign an authorization form

allowing the search. The appropriate form must be secured from the CAC, which also can provide additional details, information, and documents.

For more information or approved forms, contact CAC at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. Email: action@misnet.com

## Annuitant inserts available

Adopt-An-Annuitant Sunday will be observed across the Southern Baptist Convention on June 27. In Mississippi, 351 of the 1,059 retired ministers, missionaries, and their widows currently on the rolls of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board receive less than \$200 in benefits each month. The Adopt-An-Annuitant program provides additional funds to those retirees receiving such a small benefit. Free, undated bulletin inserts are available from the Annuity Board in Dallas by calling toll-free (800) 262-0511, and pressing "0" when prompted.

## Degrees awarded at NOBTS

Judson William Hurt of Cleveland, pastor of First Church, Canton, received the doctoral degree from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises on May 21.

Receiving their masters' degrees during the same ceremony were James "Jay" E. Albritton III, Vicksburg, now associate pastor of Wynndale Church, Terry, master of divinity; Bruce Kimball Pruitt, Gulfport, minister of youth and music at Pleasant Hill Church, Quitman, master of music; Jennifer Lynn Baker, Jackson, childhood education intern at First Church, Gulfport, master of arts; John "Robert" Toney III, Gloster, pastor of Zion Hill Church, Liberty, master of arts; Ronnie Olen Hatfield, Booneville, pastor of Ecru Church, Ecru, master of arts; L.C. Drawdy Jr., Biloxi, youth minister at Pine Grove Church, Livingston, La., master of divinity; Jeremy C. Williams, Picayune, associate and youth pastor of Hillcrest Church, Carriere, master of divinity; Andrea Suzann Eves Herrington, Newport News, Va., married to H. Boyd Herrington of Mathiston, master of divinity; Michelle Darlene McMurphy, Lucedale, music assistant at Immanuel Church, Slidell, La., master of divinity; William E. "Billy" James, Laurel, pas-

tor of Holly Springs Church, Foxworth, master of divinity; and Dennis Martin Wells, Sarasota, Fla., pastor of Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, master of divinity.

Receiving the bachelor degrees were Michael Lee Giles, Pinola, pastor of Branch Church, Morton, bachelor of general studies; Lawrence Millard Moak, Summit, pastor of New Hope Church, Meadville, bachelor of general studies; Carol C. McElroy, Laurel, minister of education and children at Briarwood Church, Meridian, bachelor of general studies; Donald L. Pike Jr., Jacksonville, Ala., recently served as minister of music and youth at Bethel Church, Liberty, bachelor of arts; Anthony Paul Langley, Pascagoula, minister of music at First Church, Arabi, La., bachelor of arts; and Robert Charles Moore, Independence, bachelor of general studies.

Receiving associate degrees were Charles Ralph Bonner, Newton, pastor of Poplar Springs Church, Newton, associate of divinity; and Joseph Ira Sansing, Carrollton, pastor of New Bethel Church, Carrollton, associate in Christian studies.



Hurt

## Mississippians teach Masterlife in Hungary

By Steve Jackson, pastor  
McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl

Twenty-one students from six countries participated in a Masterlife workshop led by four Mississippi pastors in Szigetszentmiklos, Hungary, on April 26-28. The students, including both Serbs and Albanians,

Europe for more effective Christian service and leadership. In addition to a semester program of biblical, theological, and English studies, a "practical" seminar workshop is led each spring using the Masterlife or Experiencing God materials.

Leading the workshop was Larry Goff, Baptist Student Union director at Jones Junior College in Ellisville; Steve Jackson, pastor of McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl; Jon Nichols, pastor of Paul Truitt Memorial Church, Pearl; and Frank Rice, pastor of Oak Grove Church, Meridian.

IBLA's director is Errol Simmons, a 23-year veteran of European service with the International Mission Board.

"These students were eager to learn. Their level of commitment to Christ challenged all of us," said Jackson. "In the midst

of a serious conflict less than 150 miles away in Yugoslavia, both Serbs and Albanians had found unity in Christ and studied and worshipped together, proving that Christ is the answer to the Balkan conflict!"

The trip was organized through Rankin County Association. Alan Stephens is director of missions.



Workshop participants

were enrolled in the International Baptist Lay Academy (IBLA) near Budapest.

Founded in 1990, IBLA is an institution of the European Baptist Federation that equips lay leaders from the Baptist churches and unions of Central and Eastern

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*Celebrates 40 years serving the Lord*

**June 25, 26, and 27, 1999**

You are invited to attend any or all events

**Anniversary Celebration Service**

**Sunday, June 27 at 10:15 a.m.**

in the Sanctuary featuring former pastors and Reunion Choir.

**Covered Dish Luncheon** in the Family Life Center

followed by **"WHBC - The First 40 Years"**

in the Sanctuary featuring former staff members and video history.

**Dinner Theater "Mayberry 2001"**

**Friday & Saturday, June 25 & 26, 7:00 p.m.**

Call 372-5443 for Tickets - \$10 (Youth Fundraiser)

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. There will be no evening services.



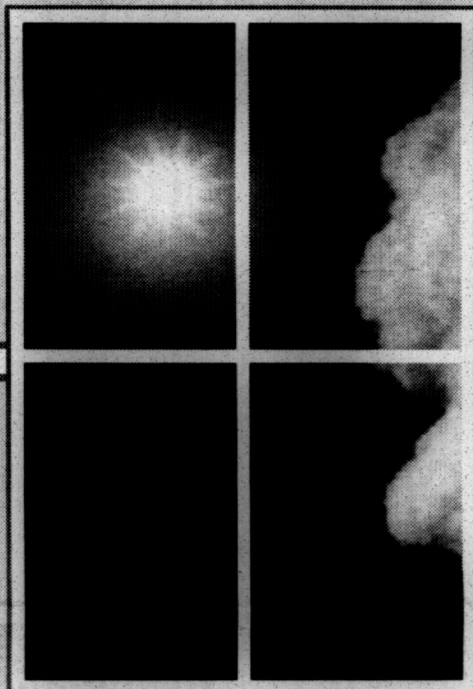
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 17, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



Church Design Handbook  
1999 • 2000



Copies of the most complete church program planning aid are awaiting your call. The 1999-2000 Church Design Handbook is available free for all members of your church council. It includes a 16-month calendar (Sept. 99 - Dec. 00) and has suggestions for activities in the areas of witness, Bible study, and equipping for service. Virtually all events offered by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board are listed. One special focus of the handbook is a listing of suggestions for participating in Celebrate Jesus 2000. This is a strategy to pray for and share Christ with every person on earth by year-end 2000. Pastors, call or write the MBCB's Ministry Office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson at 968-3800.

## Miss. Single Ministers Fellowship Banquet

First Baptist Church, Biloxi  
Friday, August 13  
6:30 p.m.

### Mac Hotz, speaker

singles minister, Clarksville, Tenn.

RSVP by August 11, 1999

(Spouses are invited)

Call James Haynes (1-228-374-3310)

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
will furnish the meal.

## Single Leaders/ Ministers Seminars

First Baptist Church, Biloxi  
Saturday, August 14  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**FREE!**

### Start a Revolution

led by Doug and Sarah Stephens,  
Clarksville, Tenn.

### Leadership Conference

led by Mac Holtz

- Handouts • Free Literature
- Refreshments



### Guest Speaker

Roy Edgemon, director of  
Discipleship and Family  
Ministry, LifeWay Christian  
Resources



### Guest Musicians

Gordon and Donna Alford,  
minister of music, First  
Baptist Church, Vancleave

## 1999 Growing Churches Conferences

Equipping Church Leaders for the 21st Century

### Growing Churches Through Discipleship July 29-31

Seminars on total church growth with an  
emphasis on Discipleship and Family  
Ministry.

Featuring Roy Edgemon and the Alfords

Contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry  
Department for more info.

### Growing Churches Through Bible Study August 6-7

Seminars on total church growth with  
an emphasis on Sunday School.

Contact the Sunday School Department  
for more info.

Each conference is a presentation of the Equipping Team-MBCB

Phone: 1-800-748-1651/601-968-3800





# Mississippi Acteens Convention

*"Clay In Need of a Potter's Hand"*

**Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson - July 23-25**

## Tentative Schedule & Highlights:

**Cost: \$24**

(includes program fee, Rapids Water Park, and lunch on Saturday) - T-Shirts available for an additional \$6

### Weekend Schedule

#### Friday

7 p.m. Youth Night at Mississippi Coliseum  
10 p.m. - 1 a.m. Rapids Water Park, Brandon

#### Saturday

8:45 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. Registration  
9:15 a.m. Pre-Session  
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Missions Celebration, Conferences, Lunch  
6:45 p.m. Pre-Session  
7:00 - 9:00 Missions Celebration

#### Sunday

7:45 a.m. Pre-Session  
8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Closing Missions Celebration

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Marilyn & Eddie Graves, missionaries to Chile  
Kay Bennett, NAMB missionary, Friendship House, New Orleans  
Peggy Ray, music and worship leader, Tucker Ga.  
Mississippi Acteens Panel

Missions Celebrations, Missions Maze, Acteen/Missions Conferences, Crosswalk Ministry Project—every Acteen and advisor needs to bring a white T-shirt and bottle of fabric paint.

Pre-registration is required. Mail registration form by July 9, 1999, to WMU, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

**NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE TAKEN BY PHONE,  
ALL CANCELLATIONS AND REFUND REQUESTS MUST ARRIVE IN  
WRITING BY JULY 9.  
NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER THIS DATE.**

For more information contact:

Robin Keels, GAs/Acteens/Camp Ministries Consultant  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

## REGISTRATION FORM - MAC 1999

Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$24 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ Acteens and/or Advisor(s).  
I am also enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$6 per person) for T-shirt(s).  
Person making reservations \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form and check to:  
WMU/MBCB, P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205

Name Indicate sponsor with (A)	Address (City, State, Zip)	School Grade	T-shirt size

## WMU/Habitat Community Project "Building West Park with love"



### COMMUNITY MINISTRY PROJECT

. Sports Camps . Medical Clinics  
. Legal Seminars . Park Revival  
. Door-to-Door . Neighborhood Bible  
Evangelism . Clubs

### RAISING MONEY FOR HOUSES

Mississippi WMU is raising funds to build two Habitat for Humanity houses in Jackson. Each of these houses will cost \$20,000 to build. Therefore, Mississippi WMU needs to raise \$40,000 to fund the building of both homes.

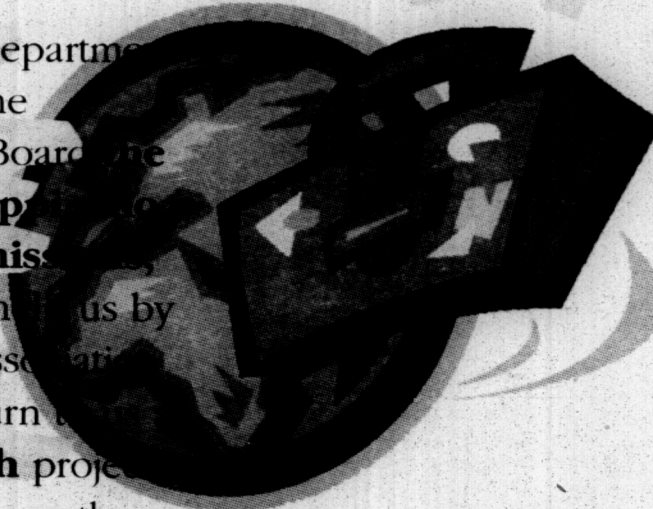
\$10	a floor joist	\$50	an interior door
\$20	a 50 lb. box of nails	\$75	8 sheets of wallboard
\$25	a roof truss	\$100	3 boxes of flooring material
\$40	5 gallons of paint	\$250	50 bundles of roof shingles

For more info, contact Tammy Anderson, WMU, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3323



# mission volunteer report

Each year the Men's Ministry Department is responsible for reporting to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board the **number of people in Mississippi who were involved in volunteer missions, where they went, etc.** Please help us by reporting your church and/or association involvement. Complete and return a copy of the form below for **each** project which your people (individuals, youth, adults, etc.) participated.



Remember to send your report by August 15!

Be sure to include all projects from August 1998 to August 1999

Mail to:

Volunteer Mission Report  
Men's Ministry Department  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530  
601-968-3800  
or fax to: 601-968-3928

☐ Church Project ☐ Association Project ☐ Individual Project

Your Church \_\_\_\_\_

Your Association \_\_\_\_\_

Project Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Information

**Type of Project:** ☐ Community ☐ In-State ☐ U.S. ☐ Foreign

Project Location (state or country) \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Volunteers in Your Group \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

## Decisions:

Professions of Faith \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Type of Work Accomplished:

- ☐ Construction
- ☐ V.B.S.
- ☐ Survey
- ☐ Evangelism
- ☐ Bible Clubs
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Medical/Dental
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**S**uper Summer Mississippi is for the young person who is a mature and responsible Christian leader. Super Summer may not be for your entire group. Mississippi College and FBC, Clinton, are the hosts for Super Summer, July 19-23. Young people attending Super Summer Mississippi spend approximately 20 hours in evangelism and discipleship training. Quality youth leaders from our state lead our youth in study. Youth are trained in how to share their faith, how to have a quiet time, how to memorize scripture, how to find God's will for their lives, and more. They are also challenged and equipped to utilize their talents to penetrate their culture for Christ in a creative and effective way. Throughout Super Summer young people are encouraged to use the freedom they have in Christ to change the world.

## Financial Requirements

The total cost for Super Summer during the registration period is **\$145** per student and adult; amount includes food, housing in the school dormitory, materials, and T-shirt.

Due to construction at Mississippi College **SPACE WILL BE LIMITED THIS YEAR.** Registration begins **April 19** and ends **June 30.** Students registering by June 30 are guaranteed a Super Summer T-shirt.

Students registering after **June 30** will be subject to a **\$25 (per person) late registration fee. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JULY 8.**



Gary Permenter  
Worship Leader



Kevin Williams  
Music Worship Leader

**Super Summer '99 - July 19-23**  
**Mississippi College & FBC, Clinton**

## Guidelines for all SS candidates

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e. Survival Kit, DiscipleYouth, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 1999, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.



# Pray this day for...

June 18 - July 1, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

## The Practice of Prayer

"Without time for prayer, nothing can be accomplished and yet not infrequently men excuse or explain their lack of prayerfulness by saying they have not time. There's time for business, time for pleasure, time for social and Christian service, but no time for that exercise which would give to all these, and other things, power and effect."

From *METHOD IN PRAYER* by Graham Scroggie

Father's Day - Pray that fathers will nurture their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord and that children will honor and respect their father.

20

Missionaries told of Noah in an Ayizo village in Benin, where the rainbow is seen as a symbol of the voodoo god Dan. One of their leading men said: "Now when I see a rainbow, I'll remember God's promise. I won't have to gather my children and run in fear into my house because of Dan." Praise God for banishing the spirit of fear from the Ayizo hearts.

For GA Summer Camp (WMU); VI Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (MBCB); Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, Central Hills Retreat (Brotherhood).

21

For Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, Central Hills Retreat (Brotherhood); GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa (WMU).

28

Continue praying for the women's Bible study in Mongolia that was started in April by a member of "Church C." This woman is very nervous about teaching since she has only been a Christian for a short time. Pray for her to have courage, and pray for the spiritual growth of all those who attend.

For Young Musicians Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Church Music). Sean Stevenson is a church planter apprentice in Huron, Ohio. Pray that leaders will be raised up to take some of the burden off him and his wife.

Pray that God will keep the members of Christ Fellowship Church, Davao City, Philippines, focused on reaching the 50,000 unreached "Enrawgen" in that area. These Chinese are the young entrepreneurs of Asia. Pray that the ones who attend worship services and Bible studies at the church will catch the vision of sharing the Good News.

A worker in a frontier country shared Christ with a seeker who accepted Christ. Later, as they were walking together, they were attacked and beaten. The worker fell to the ground. The new Christian covered him with his body and received a bad blow. Praise God for this new believer's faith and willingness to lay down his own life for the sake of his brother in Christ.

Missionaries John and Nancy Laramore must move from their present resident in Morogoro, Tanzania, by the first part of July. Pray that their new rental house in Dumila, which is still under construction, will be completed by then.

Ken Steele is a church planter apprentice pastoring the Prairie Springs Church of Sun Prairie, Wis. Its first service was on Easter. Pray for the congregation, which meets in the Prairie View Middle School. Pray for Ken as he gives leadership.

For GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa (WMU). Pray for the national WMU as it participates in Habitat for Humanity by building seven houses for needy families. The Mississippi WMU plans to build two of those in Jackson. Pray for the evangelistic efforts connected with this project.

For Lad/Dad Weekend Camp, Central Hills Retreat (Brotherhood); HeartSong '99, Gulfshore Assembly (Church Music).

25

Because there are so many colleges in the area where missionaries Randy and Mary Ann Gallaway serve in Canada, they are asking you to pray that God will call out volunteers to help them reach the many students at these schools for Christ.

An unemployed German drank himself to death after winning a large state lottery. After hitting the jackpot four years ago, this man's first purchase was an extremely expensive sports car, but his drinking cost him his driver's license. His marriage also was destroyed. Grieve in prayer over the millions of lives devastated by state-sponsored gambling.

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!



1-91

MR. JESSE BUSH

B.P. 15, Kenieba, MALI

Parents: Karl & Lena, Community Outreach/Enco

6-83

MISS AUDRA FUNDERBURK

01 B.P. 6491 Abijan 01, COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)

Parents: Ricky & Lori, Administrative Associate

12-78

MISS B. TRACY THOMAS

P O Box 5354, Clinton, MS 39058

Parents: Robert & Beverly, Hospital Administration Northern Africa & Middle East

18-82

MR. TIMOTHY STAMPS

Apartado 2340, Managua, NICARAGUA

Parents: Keith & Penny Stamps, General Evangelism

28-86

MR. ROSS E. FUNDERBURK

01 B.P. 6491, Abijan 01, COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)

Parents: Ricky & Lori, Administrative Associate

31-82

MR. MARK HENDRICKS

1090 Meadow Heights Drive, Jackson, MS 39206

Parents: Larry & Mary, General Evangelism  
SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST NIGHT '99

## "SY2J" (SAY YES TO JESUS) ISAIAH 6:8

MISSISSIPPI FAIRGROUNDS COLISEUM

Christian Vocal Artist

Youth Evangelist

Same program — choose one to attend  
**July 23, 1999 • 7 p.m.**  
**July 24, 1999 • 10 a.m.**

A ministry of your Cooperative Program • MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD  
 International Executive Director: Treasurer • Matt Beutels, YOUTH NIGHT Committee Chairman  
 1-800-745-1651 or 965-3500 • www.mbbc.org

# HOUSE TOPS



# Africa missionaries involved in accident

MORIJA, Lesotho (BP) — A Southern Baptist missionary couple has been charged in a fatal car accident in the southern Africa nation of Lesotho.

Gene and Jean Phillips, emeritus Southern Baptist missionaries serving a volunteer term in Morija, Lesotho, were traveling from Morija to Maseru the night of June 2 when a man suddenly walked into the middle of the road. Although Phillips swerved to miss him, the driver's side mirror on the car hit the pedestrian.

Phillips stopped his car immediately after the accident, but a hostile crowd quickly gathered and began banging on the vehicle. Realizing they were in danger, the Phillipses drove to the police station to report the accident. They returned to the scene with police only to find that the man had been taken from the road to a hospital. The pedestrian eventually died.

Despite the fact that this was an accident, Phillips was charged with culpable homicide by the magistrate's office

and released on bond. A June 15 trial date was set. Negotiations are under way to try to settle the case without a trial, according to Lesotho missionary Charles Middleton from Shreveport, La.

This is the second time tragedy has struck the Phillipses in less than six months. On Jan. 31, the couple was robbed and kidnapped at gunpoint. The thieves drove the couple into an isolated area in the mountains and repeatedly threatened to kill them.

Eventually, the couple was left on the side of the road, alive and unharmed.

The four thieves were caught but recently have been released on bail. Rumors that the recently released kidnappers were boasting about their crime caused the couple to leave their home in Morija and drive to Maseru to seek a more secured area. They were on their way to the capital city when the accident occurred.

The Phillipses, from Woodruff, S.C., and Greensboro, N.C., respectively, were appointed as missionaries to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1956 and served through a period of strife and revolution that resulted in the country's independence from the United Kingdom in 1980. They retired in 1996 and began the Lesotho assignment in discipleship and leadership training through the IMB's International Service Corps program in December.

Officials at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., ask for prayer for the Phillipses. "They need your prayers of encouragement," said Clyde Berkley, who helps direct the board's work in southern Africa. "Pray that God will sustain them and assure them of his unfailing arms around them."



G. Phillips



J. Phillips

## Staying Well

### Informed

#### Breast Cancer Drug Study Seeking Volunteers

Breast Cancer is one of the nation's leading causes of death among women, and is, after skin cancer, the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women in the United States. Although the statistics may be alarming, there is hope. Research is helping pinpoint the causes of breast cancer, as well as helping find new ways to prevent, detect and treat it.

Recently, Baptist Health Systems became one of more than 400 sites around the nation to join the Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene (STAR), one of the largest breast cancer prevention studies ever conducted.

This ambitious project will study approximately 22,000 women to determine the effectiveness of the drug raloxifene in preventing breast cancer in women at high risk. The project will also study whether raloxifene offers more benefits or fewer side effects than tamoxifen, a similar drug that proved to decrease the incidences of breast cancer by 49% in the study's first phase. The study is projected to last five years, although women will be tracked after the initial study period is over. "We're excited about bringing this important study to Central Mississippi," said Gerry Ann Houston, M.D., a Jackson oncologist who serves as medical director of Baptist's Comprehensive Breast Center. "Women everywhere are at risk for breast cancer, and we are pleased that women in this area will have the chance to participate."

Study participants must meet strict criteria: They must be postmenopausal, at least 35 years of age, and be at increased risk for breast cancer. They will also go through a process known as informed consent, during which they will learn about the potential benefits and risks of tamoxifen and raloxifene before deciding whether to participate in the study.

Participants will be randomly assigned to take tamoxifen or raloxifene daily for five years, and will receive regular follow-up examinations, including mammograms and gynecologic exams. Both tamoxifen and raloxifene will be offered at no charge to study participants. To volunteer for the study, or for more information, call the Baptist Women's Center at (601) 973-3180. If you would like to participate but live outside the Jackson area, you can call the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237) to find a site near you.

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## Endowment funds MC chair

The Accounting Department in the Mississippi College (MC) School of Business has a new chair. The families of the late R.M. Hederman Jr., the late T.M. Hederman Jr., the late Arnold Hederman, Sr., Zach T. Hederman Sr. and family, and Henry Hederman and family have provided funds to endow a chair in the MC Accounting Department. The chair will be known as the Hederman Chair of Accounting. The first chair holder is expected to be named in early 2000.

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS



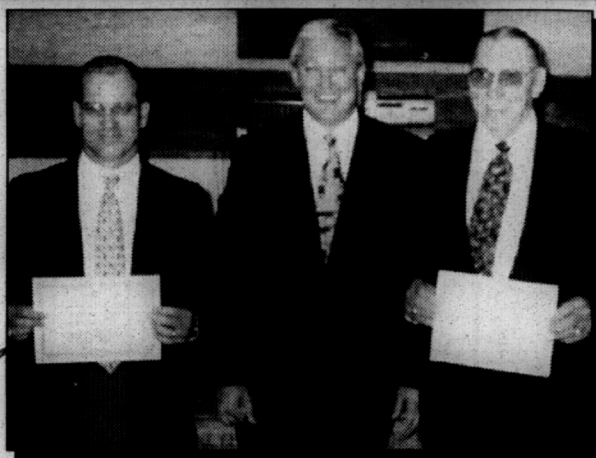
Cagle, the Welches, and Dowdy

**West Union Church, Carriere**, ordained Kyle Welch to the ministry on April 11. He was associate pastor and youth minister at West Union Church from 1996-1999. Pictured (from left) are Larry Cagle, minister of music; Tonya and Kyle Welch; and Billy Dowdy, pastor.

**Richmond Church, Tupelo**, licensed Jake Davis to the gospel ministry on May 2. Davis, available for service, can be contacted at (601) 844-2293. Pictured

are Davis, left, and Sean Tutor Sr., pastor.

**Holcomb Church, Holcomb**, recently ordained Howard Brower and Carl Marascalco as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Marascalco; Randy Ashley, pastor; and Brower.



Marascalco, Ashley, and Brower

### VBS dates

**Hillcrest, Jackson:** June 21-25; 6-8:30 p.m.; four years-6th grade; classes for adults will also be held.

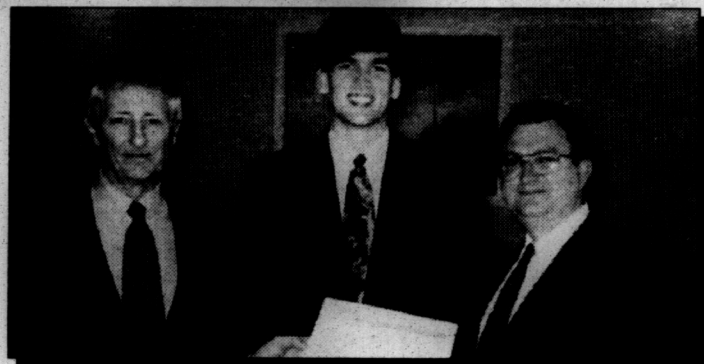
**New Elbethel (Lafayette):** July 18, kick-off, 5 p.m.; July 19-23, 6:30-9 p.m.; and July 25, family night, 6 p.m.

### Homecomings

**Palestine, Harrisville:** June 27; 42nd annual homecoming service, 10:45 a.m.; lunch served after the services with cemetery business and singing following; Jerry Owen, guest speaker.

**Fair Ridge, Stringer:** June 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall following morning worship; Lester Gardner, guest speaker; Tim Sanford, pastor.

**Hebron, Grenada:** June 27; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed Deuschle, guest speaker, consultant, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



**Calvary Church, Belmont**, ordained Casey Hughes to the ministry on March 28. He graduated from Blue Mountain College (BMC) on May 2. Hughes is now serving as associate pastor. Pictured (from left) are Douglas Bain, Biblical Department chairman, BMC; Hughes; and Ray Kirk, pastor.



Davis and Tutor

### REVIVAL DATES

**Poplar Springs, Newton:** June 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Baker, Ripley Church, Benton-Tippah Association, evangelist; Marion Felton, Hazel Church, Newton Association, music; Charles Bonner, pastor.

**Griffin Street, Moss Point:** June 20-25; 7 p.m. nightly; Don Savell, Tennessee, evangelist; Gilbert Emerson, Helena, music; Tommy Kendrick, pastor.

**Pleasant Grove, Gore Springs:** June 20-25; 7 p.m.; evangelists are Jeff Howell, June 20; Wendell Lancaster, June 21; Paul Morris, June 22; Jeff Gilder, June 23; Joey Hamilton, June 24; and Al Gaspard, June 25; Neil T. Gant, pastor, music.

**Bethel (Jones):** tent revival; June 27-30; Sunday, 10:50 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; William Blackburn, evangelist; Keith Davis, music; Pat Nowell, pastor.

**Branch, Morton:** Aug. 8-11; Gayden Harrell, evangelist; Michael Lee Giles, pastor.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**GAs of First Church, Grenada**, held their recognition service on May 19. GAs recognized include (from left, front row) Kristen Vance, Cassie Cummings, Kayla Carson, Ashland King, Jessica Williams, Kayla Williamson, and Alex Armstrong; (second row) Miriam Cresswell, Valerye Wildham, Whitney Dedmon, Caitlin Wilson, and Katie Boyette; (back row) Autumn Sanford, Jenna McMurphy, Kayla Martin, Holly Boyette, Chatelaine Fortenberry, and Elizabeth Williams.

**The Mission Friends of Pleasant Hills Nursing Home** on Country Woods Church, May 12. They took fresh flowers Jackson, visited the residents of and handmade cards to give out.



**Mission Friends of Country Woods Church, Jackson**

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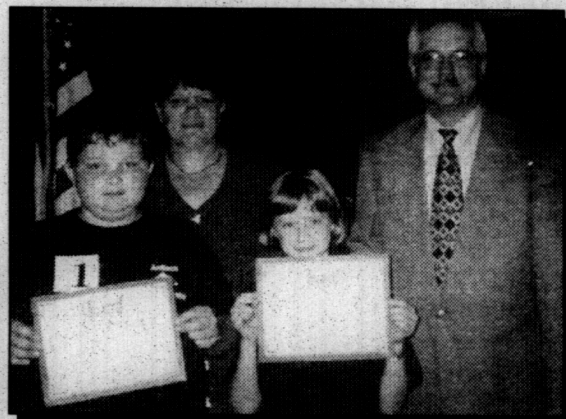


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**Antioch Church, Copiah County**, will celebrate 175 years of continuous service on June 27. Regular morning worship will be held at 11 a.m., lunch at noon on the grounds, and a program at 1 p.m. Former pastors will be introduced and will give a few remarks. Letters, resolutions, and proclamations will be presented, followed by

a reception in fellowship hall. History books and souvenirs will be distributed to each family.



**Bible Drill participants, Antioch Church, Greene Association**

**Antioch Church, Greene Association**, had its first ever Bible Drill. Participants were Dee Brown and Megan Hodges. Both completed State Level Drills with a superior rating. Pictured are Brown and Hodges with Agnes Parnell, leader, and Jimmy Holcomb, pastor.



**First Church, Indianola**, recently held its mission ventures recognition service for GAs. Five received participation badges and 13 received charm bracelets. The leaders are Tami Harrell, Lyn Hubbard, and Amy Pentecost. Greg Bowers is pastor. Pictured (front row) are Holly Dill, Olivia Barrett, Ann Shelby Adams, Rachel Rosenthal, Hannah Joe Skelton; (middle row) Anna Daniels, Mary Clyde Barrett, Hannah - Ruth Harrell, Lanna Lipe Burkhalter, Natalie Nobile is seated; (back row) Anna Claire Sykes, BreAnn Green, Mallory Spencer, Jennifer Sykes, Krislee Crawford, Kirby Grissett, Kossandra Crawford, and Caitlyn Kimbrell.

**First Church, Natchez**, held Acteen Coronation Service on May 9. Acteens pictured with their pages (front row) are Sara Beth Fuller, Jheri Dupre' Ogden, Carolyn Mullins, Andrew Cronin, Katherine Timm, Taylor Bowling, Bryce Murray, James Tobermann, Ryan Comer, Margaret Ward; (back row) Lori Anne Fuller, Claire Waycaster, Ariel Gardner, Amy Binns, Lindsey Timm, Ashley Freeman, Brynn Rogel, Amanda Comer, and Jessica Yost. Not pictured was Ashley Timm. Paula Binns is the leader. Dan W. Robertson is pastor.

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## LIFE AND WORK

### Renew your giving

Malachi 2:17-3:12

By Tony Martin

Are you overcommitted? Does your schedule take you to work, to school, to ball practice, to church activities, with no breathing room in between? Are you emotionally zapped because of all the obligations you have? Does a combination of car payments, housing, utilities, clothes, food, medical bills, and other necessities and wants drain your bank account? Are you carrying a debt load on your credit cards that rival the gross national product of some third world countries?

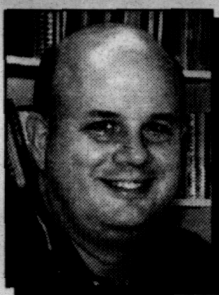
If you miss a utility bill, the lights may go off. Miss too many car payments, and you face repossession. Reduce or skip your offering to the church, and nothing may seem to happen.

So, if you're faced by other financial obligations, often the tithe is the first thing to go. There are consequences of this. How will giving to God help renew your faith?

**Giving to God refocuses life (2:17-3:5).** Malachi began by charging Judah with "wearying the Lord with your words." The question came back, in the same whining tone seen earlier, "How have we wearied him?" Malachi's reply: "By saying, 'All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord.'"

This is obvious evidence of a perverted spiritual life. The people of Malachi's day were calling evil good; and this propensity is common today.

Recently I caught myself saying of a current movie, "It



Martin

was a great movie, but the language was terrible." It's easy to let humanistic values subtly influence God's nature and revelation of true goodness and purity.

Pornographic magazines are blandly called "men's magazines;" and while homosexuals are a people group in need of being reached with the gospel just as any other group, their lifestyle is not acceptable to believers.

This charge from Malachi lead to some frightening apocalyptic images. Malachi spoke of the coming of God, and in a sweeping warning, said, "Who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears?"

Malachi was communicating that God's messenger was coming and he would purify the land by judgement. After that, God would accept the offerings of those who remained.

The imagery of a "refiner's

fire" in verse 2 paints a picture of God taking the initiative to purify his people. If the people refused to repent on their own, God would, in effect, burn all the impurities from them. As the people's lives were refocused through this purging, then their offerings would be acceptable to God.

**Giving to God acknowledges his ownership (3:6-9).** Malachi began with the comforting thought that God never changes. "Return to me, and I will return to you," promised God himself. In this light, the people of that day — and our day — are guaranteed that God will remain faithful.

The people, in the same sarcastic mode, asked, "How are we to return?" Implied in that question was a belief from these folks that they had never strayed. After all, they had done all the "spiritual stuff" required of them!

Malachi specifically accused them of robbing God and bringing a curse on themselves

by failing to acknowledge through tithes and offerings God's ownership of all.

We should understand that everything we have belongs to God. When we refuse to return to him a portion of what is rightfully his, we rob him.

**Giving to God brings his blessings (3:10-12).** In an oft-quoted passage from Malachi, God issues a challenge. If his people would demonstrate faithfulness to the tithe, then he would provide an abundant harvest. If they would but return to him, God would open the very windows of heaven and pour out blessings.

"Test me in this," God says. This is one of the very few times in Scripture when God asks us to test him. God blesses not because people have "paid" for these blessings, but because when his people are seeking him and obeying him, he enjoys giving back to them.

Tony Martin is minister of education at First Church, McComb.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### The work of the Spirit

2 Cor. 3:1-18

By Ted Dukes

A fellow asked his former boss to write a letter of reference to a prospective employer. The boss did not want to hurt the boy's chances of getting a job, but he remembered him to be lazy and unproductive. How could he write the reference and still tell the truth? He decided to respond: "If you can get this fellow to work for you, you will be fortunate indeed."

In a day of limited communication it was not usual to require letters of recommendation to authenticate a message or validate a ministry. We find multiple instances in Scripture where such referrals are made

(Acts 18:27; Rom. 16:1; Col. 4:10; Titus 3:13).

**The origin of Paul's confidence (vv. 1-6).** It is to such a letter that the apostle Paul makes reference (vv. 1-3). How absurd it must have seemed to Paul to submit letters of recommendation to a church of which he was the founder. How arrogant an assumption that he should need letters from them, as though the word of God originated in Corinth (1 Cor. 14:36).

While others may arrive with letters in their hands, Paul points to the letters written upon his heart in the form of the Corinthian converts themselves. Christ was the composer, and



Dukes

they were its amanuenses and conveyers.

God writes his word upon the heart of every Christian (Jer. 31:33), and the Spirit uses us as the medium by which the Gospel is presented to others.

**A new covenant (vv. 7-11).** Paul's idea of a "new testament" is the same expression of Jer. 31:31 and Luke 22:20. He seeks to contrast that which is life-giving with that which brings death.

It is the argument between the Pharisees and Christ when they accused him of abolishing the Law while he claimed to fulfill it. The Law is the chain that binds a mean dog. The dog's goodness is defined by and limited to the chain. If the chain is broken you had better run. Our Lord came to tame the dog and thereby make the chain unnecessary.

When Moses descended from the mountain with the Ten Commandments we are told that the Hebrews could not look upon his face, so brilliantly did it shine with the residual glory of God. They would not come anywhere close to him until he veiled his face (Ex. 29).

The Hebrew words for "ray of light" and "horns" are identical, and some ancient translations rendered a somewhat skewed image of Moses. I used to have a porcelain replica of Michaelangelo's Moses with horns on his head and wondered if the artist knew something about Moses I didn't.

From the first moment the Hebrews saw the irradiated face of Moses it had begun to fade. Paul pictures the former glory of the Law out-dazzled by the splendor of the Gospel (3:7-11).

**The Gospel unveiled (vv. 12-18).** Nevertheless, there is a veil of stubborn obstinacy over the faces of those who would cling to the

tenets of Judaism, mixing adherence unto the Law with the liberating grace of the Gospel (3:15).

These legalistic people are often referred to historically as Judaizers, but they still exist today in the form of men and women who would keep the church focused on the minutia rather than the ministry. They are immature, guilty, and afraid, and if allowed control they can derail a church.

Paul says the moment the heart turns toward the Lord the veil begins to lift (Isa. 25:7), and with "open face" (v. 18) we are gradually changed so that we can see the glory of God without the aid of any glass.

Our spiritual transformation begins when we turn our hearts toward Jesus. His strength becomes our strength, his glory becomes our glory, hence Paul's phrase, "from glory to glory" (3:18).

Dukes is pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs.

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Shattered relationships

Genesis 4:1-16

By Grant Arinder

The sixteen verses of Gen. 4 contain all the components of a great Shakespearean tragedy: cast, plot twist, struggle of good and evil, conflict and tragedy. Perhaps that is why John Steinbeck pondered the meaning of these sixteen verses when he wrote his classic novel, "East of Eden." The text serves as a case study for the understanding of human relationships and how these relationships are managed under the watchful eye of God.

**The cast: Cain, Abel, and God (vv. 1-3).** It is the tension of the three that leads to the triumphs and tragedies of life. Living with our brother (or sis-

ter) would not be so difficult if there were no God, for there would be no standard, no moral law, no ethic. The challenge is living with him in the presence of a demanding God. God has expectations for us (cf. Ten Commandments, Sermon on the Mount). The text reveals the symbiotic nature of our horizontal and vertical relationships. The one always effects the other.

**The conflict (vv. 3-5).** The conflict in the story is implied rather than explained. The key to interpretation is the adjectives that are used to describe the two offerings. Abel brought the "fat" portions of his "first" born. Cain brought "some" of his harvest, not the first fruits, as later speci-



Arinder

fied in the Law (Ex. 23:19). The two adjectives describe not only the offering, but the brothers' attitudes as well. Cain had an "it will do" commitment and brought an "it will do" offering, while Abel had an "only the best will do" commitment and brought an "only the best will do" offering. Thus, God found favor in Abel's offering, but not in Cain's. God's choice was not arbitrary. It was not the essence of the offering that offended God, but the attitude it revealed.

**The challenge (vv. 6-7).** The story climaxes in these two verses. Everything hangs on the challenge of God and the choice of Cain. The most important word in the text is the Hebrew verb "Timshel," translated "you must master it." God confronts Cain's anger and jealousy, and tries to instruct him. God assures him of divine accep-

tance when Cain acts appropriately. God warns Cain of the sin that is germinating in him and that desires to have him. God then presents Cain with the great challenge of faithful living, "Timshel," you must master it.

Sin desires each of us as well. For various and sundry reasons lust, anger, greed, selfishness, pride, and a host of other sins germinate in our minds. They desire to have us as they did Cain. In the balance, God is there with the warning, "Timshel."

**The choice (v. 8).** It is interesting that in the text the actual murder is anti-climactic. It is mentioned only in a transitional way. The writer is much more interested in what preceded the act and the consequences that followed. Perhaps this is instructive to us as well. The actual act of sin is the secondary violation; it is the decision of sin that is the most basic. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he (cf. Pr. 4:23, Mt. 12:33-35, Mk. 7:21-23).

**The consequences.** Many people live in substandard, dilapidated, and sad conditions, but no place is as sad as the place described in the text. Steinbeck understood this and named his novel appropriately, "East of Eden." To live east of Eden is to live outside the special blessing of God. Perhaps even more tragic than living east of Eden is living in the land of Nod. It is worth noting that Nod is not so much a physical location as it is a spiritual location. The Hebrew "nod" means a place of wandering or exile, a place outside of God's presence. Perhaps the saddest words in all of the Old Testament are found in Genesis 4:16. These words describe not only Cain's location, but ours as well when we fail the challenge of "Timshel." "So Cain went out from the Lord's presence and lived in the Land of Nod, east of Eden."

Arinder is pastor of First Church, Belzoni.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of *The Village View* is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### MAY 1-31, 1999 HONORS

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Ms. Ruth Blaylock

R. E. "Red" Alldread

Mrs. Marjorie Dean Willis

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Lawrence Bennett

Howard & Kay Davenport

Bertie Berry

Ruth SSC, Juniper Grove BC-Poplarville

Betty S. Bishop

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Mr. Eugene Black

Pryor Implement Co., Inc.

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Jim & Nancy Ballard

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Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs

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Mr. & Mrs. James E. Dixon

Mr. James Bryant

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Mr. & Mrs. Gene Clement

Jimmy Daniel

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Emma Lou Daughdrill

Ms. Margie Ruth Lynch

Mr. Mike Daughdrill

Michael Dedeaux

Eloise Crossley SSC, FBC-Columbus

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Hopewell Baptist Church

Mr. & Mrs. Prentiss G. Cox

Ms. Mary Jones Adams

Mrs. Billie Deloach

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan

Mrs. Dolan

Mr. Jewel Malone

Mrs. Scottie Doler

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan

Pryor Implement Co., Inc.

## Spiritual Emphasis Retreat enjoyed by BCV staff, residents

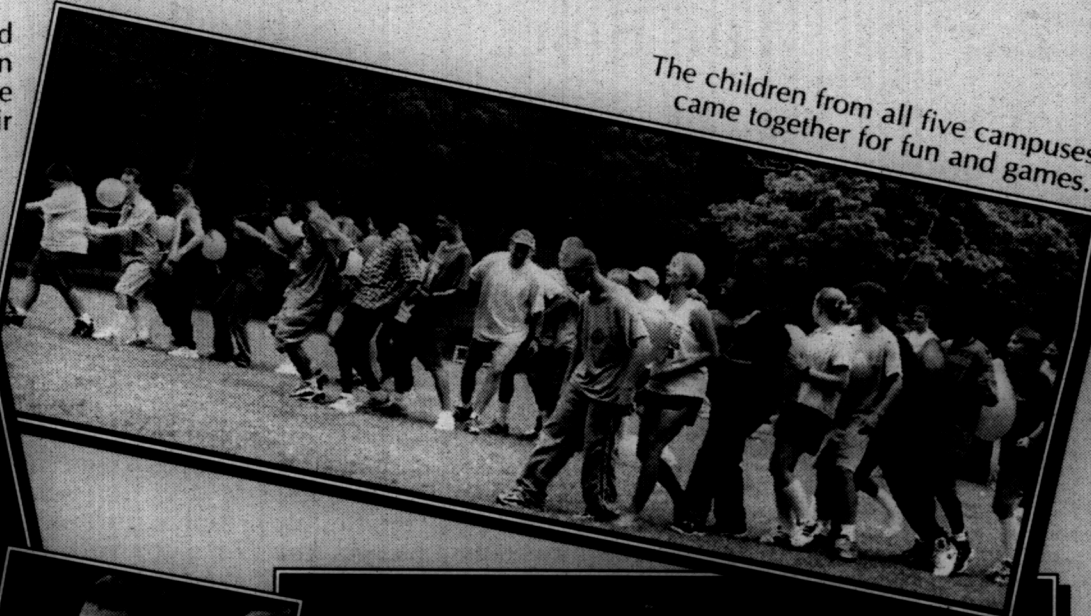
The staff and residents of all five Baptist Children's Village campuses participated in the 1999 Spiritual Emphasis Retreat May 28-29, at Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman. The children and staff were active in praise, worship, and Bible study. The children also had the opportunity to swim, play games, ride ponies, and have their faces painted. Several children made a rededication of their lives and some prayed to receive Christ. It was a great experience for all.



Mrs. Emily, counselor for the Reedy Acres campus, helped get Ashley ready for her pony ride and made sure she did not smear her face paint.



Chip Price, BCV administrator, helped to get everyone excited about the retreat.



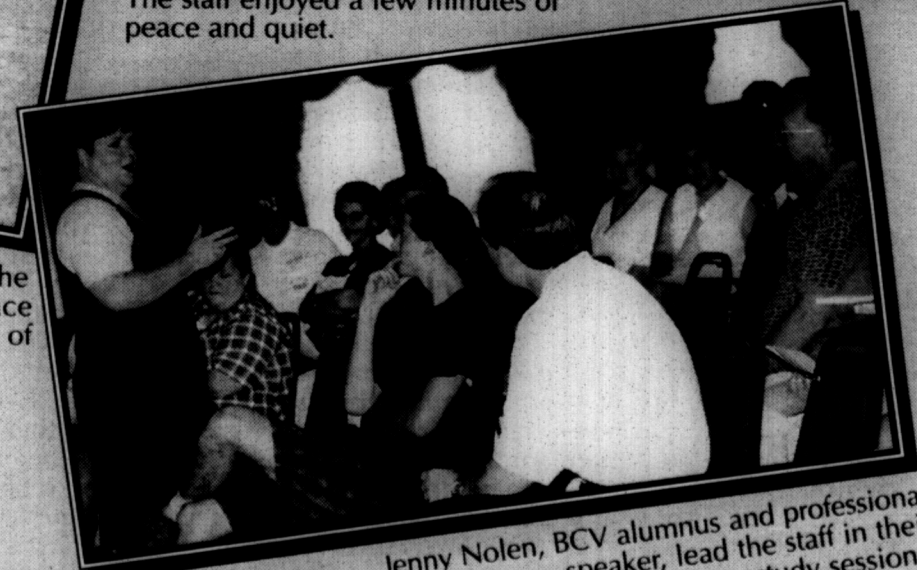
The children from all five campuses came together for fun and games.



The staff enjoyed a few minutes of peace and quiet.



Elijah and the other children ages 12 and under enjoyed pony rides.



Jenny Nolen, BCV alumnus and professional speaker, lead the staff in their study sessions.

Chris showed that he could sack race against the best of them.



# TV special focuses on Christians in NBA

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The image of professional basketball has taken a few blows — with exorbitant salaries, an extended lockout, and the retirement of perennial

icon Michael Jordan. But a television special to be broadcast this summer raises up a different breed of heroes — men whose lives reflect the life-changing presence of Jesus Christ.

"Layup Treasures," produced by the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) broadcast communications group in partnership with Dallas-based production company VisionQuest Communications Group, will be distributed to NBC network affiliates

June 23 as part of the "Horizons of the Spirit" series. Individual stations determine whether to air the program and its scheduling.

"In the midst of all that is going on, there is a handful of men within the National Basketball Association (NBA) whose stories really are treasures," said Steve Riach, the program's producer. "They are men who aren't playing for the fame; they aren't playing for the money. They are playing to use the platform to have an impact on the communities and their peers."

Riach said the concept for the special went into development late last year partially as a result of the overwhelming response to "Driving Force," a similar special that aired last summer profiling Christians on the NASCAR racing circuit. It also was co-produced by NAMB and VisionQuest.

"Layup Treasures" profiles more than a dozen pro basketball players, coaches, and commentators whose lives and careers

bear witness to their faith in Christ. "It is a view of life in the NBA ... and how their faith is woven into that," Riach said.

The program's first segment focuses on three rookie players — Bryce Drew, Michael Dickerson, and Jeff Sheppard — and how they adapted to life in the NBA during a year of uncertainty.

"These three have taken different paths to the NBA. One has had immediate impact, one sat on the bench and watched, and one of them has been signed and released — signed again and released and signed again," said Riach. "It is a look at their first year through their eyes."

The program then examines the importance of family in the life of two players, including Hubert Davis of the Dallas Mavericks. Davis' mother died when he was 16, but it was his father's overwhelming efforts to raise his family that helped Hubert achieve the success he found.

"This is an example of a father and son who love each other dearly," Riach said. "When the game's over, when his teammates say, 'Hey, let's go out and party,' he says, 'I'm going to go spend time with my dad.' That is just so antiestablishment, if you will, of what life in the NBA is like."

The program also examines another group of players who have given back to the community through their off-court efforts, as well as how several players have dealt with severe adversity in their lives.

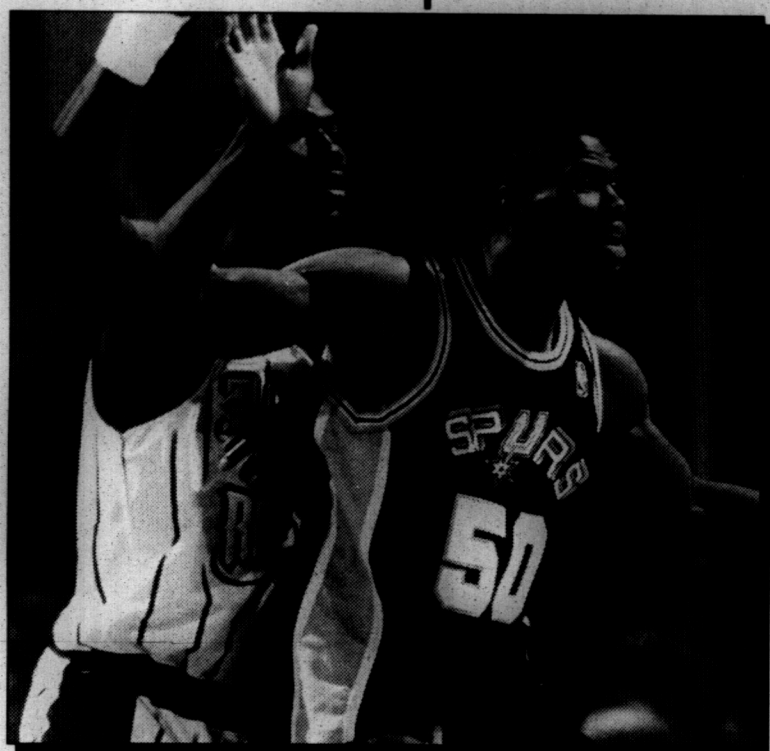
The program closes with the critical issue of how each of the players profiled describes their view of success.

NAMB's access to the network affiliates is made possible through involvement in the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), said Debbie Wall, TV and IBC marketing associate for NAMB. She noted, however, that each station makes its own decisions on when and if to broadcast programs received under the relationship.

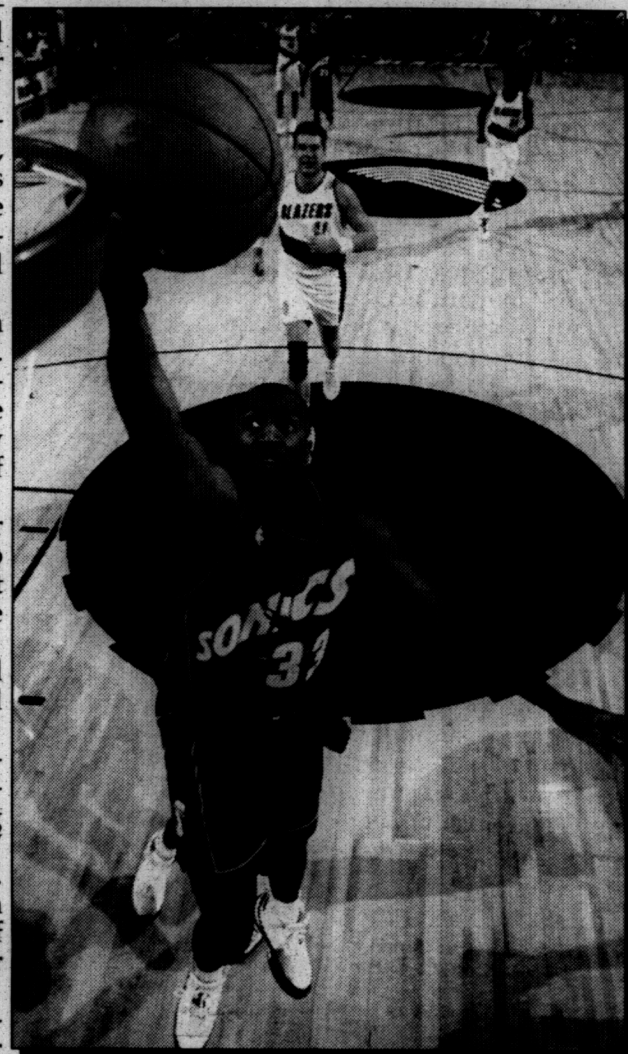
She advised Southern Baptists interested in the program being aired in their community to contact their local NBC station before June 23, if possible. This would allow stations time to tape the program from the late-night network feed and schedule its broadcast.

Other individuals scheduled to be profiled in the program include Tom Hammonds, Bryant Stith, Hersey Hawkins, Avery Johnson, Mark Jackson, Brent Price, Mark Price, Joe Dumars, Kevin Johnson, A.C. Green, Paul Westphal, LaPhonso Ellis, Charlie Ward, and Jerry Schemmel.

Information on how to contact local NBC stations is available weekdays by calling (800)-777-1127.



**ON GUARD** — David Robinson (right) of the San Antonio Spurs is one of the NBA players profiled on "Layup Treasures," a television special being made available to NBC television stations nationwide. (BP photo courtesy NBA Photos)



**AT THE RIM** — Hersey Hawkins of the Seattle Sonics is one of the NBA players profiled on "Layup Treasures," a television special being made available to NBC television stations nationwide. (BP photo courtesy NBA Photos)

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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RTA ZU XRNA ITHY  
HZUG, ZYP NX NH HZRH  
QU XYIDZH GU? PNXH  
QU TYH HZRH N GIXH  
LU RLYIH GQ CRHZUO'X  
LIXNTUXX?

EIVU HPY: CYOHQ-TNTU

Clue: Q = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm Seventy: Four.

## YouthLink 2000 spawning global prayer networks

HOUSTON (BP) — Focused intercessory prayer for the nation's young people has become one of the early ancillary benefits of YouthLink 2000 — the millennial event for an estimated 200,000 youth ages 13-22 in seven major cities across the country.

The 30th of each month has been set aside for prayer and fasting related to the event, global prayer networks are in place through both Southern Baptist mission boards and Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), and a prayer guide is ready. The Southern Baptist network also will be linked with a large database of prayer intercessors from other Christian groups for an even greater impact.

"God had been putting on people's hearts the desire to really bathe this whole event in prayer," said Bron Holcomb, YouthLink 2000 global prayer strategy coordinator for the Dec. 29-31 event.

"Jesus himself is interceding for our kids," said Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God" and special assistant to the president of the North American Mission Board for prayer and spiritual awakening. "He's praying not that they would come out of the world, but that God would keep the evil one from them. This is not the time to withdraw. It is a time for our students to drop down into these schools with boldness."

During the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta, YouthLink 2000 co-chairs Richard Ross and Dean Finley will ask the entire assembly gathered on the afternoon of June 15 to kneel and pray for the thousands of students involved in the event. During the pre-convention Pastors' Conference on June 13, the two leaders will also ask pastors to commit themselves and their churches to prayer.

In July, a "prayer room" in

the WMU Internet website will join the prayer networks of the International Mission Board (IMB) and the North American Mission Board (NAMB) with the [www.youthlink2000.org](http://www.youthlink2000.org) website to build the global prayer network.

In March of this year, Holcomb challenged YouthLink 2000 national leaders, site coordinators, and site prayer committees serving in each city to observe a regular day of prayer and fasting for the event on the 30th of each month and to call volunteers to conduct prayer walks. Host cities are Anaheim, Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Tampa.

An international prayer network is in place in the IMB's 14 regions with 150 locations. "I think the missionaries have a great concern with what they see happening to American young people," said Sherry Woods who coordinates IMB involvement in YouthLink 2000.

Also scheduled: prayer walks in places around the city where students will do mission work Dec. 30-31 while 25-50 volunteers will be reading the entire Bible and praying in the 60,000-seat Houston Astrodome the day the event opens there.

Prayer committees are at work in each YouthLink 2000 site. Anaheim set up prayer request line and conducts regular prayer meetings which cross generations and cultures. The Denver committee publishes a prayer newsletter. "Houston's plans may be a good model to share with the other sites," noted the IMB's Holcomb.

Both Holcomb and WMU's youth resources design editor Karen Anderson who also serves on the Houston prayer committee like to think about the impact this global prayer effort could have on missions. "It is special to think that missionaries in all of these regions will be praying for America and its teenagers," Anderson said.